

Proposal for
REVISION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
FOR
KENTUCKY'S NATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC DATASET
March 20, 2003

Background

The Commonwealth of Kentucky contracted with the US Geological Survey to produce the first 1:24,000 hydrographic GIS coverage in the nation. The results were formally delivered to the Geographic Information Advisory Council (GIAC) on March 20, 2003. The physical custodian of the dataset is the Office of Geographic Information (OGI) and the data is available from the OGI website and is published to the Kentucky Geographic Network. This product, also known as the Kentucky National Hydrographic Dataset (KY-NHD), provides Kentucky with a geographic representation of all surface Waters of the Commonwealth in an electronic format at a scale equal to the traditional paper topographic maps. It will enable many computer mapping and modeling capabilities to state agencies, local government, and citizens of the Commonwealth.

Clearly, the accuracy of this mapping product has great importance. It is expected, however, that the state must be prepared for revisions that will need to be made in the KY-NHD. Reasons for revisions may include: potential transcription or editing errors in the production of the map; potential errors in the interpretation of the waterways from Kentucky's Digital Ortho Quarter Quads (DOQQ's) to the GIS coverage; the production of new data and interpretations regarding what constitutes a "Water of the Commonwealth;" and, finally, litigation or dispute over various permitting or other regulatory programs. Any one of these can mean that, while the KY-NHD is the working definition of waters of the Commonwealth, sound, technically defensible data could come forth to compel the Commonwealth Office of Geographic Information and the U.S. Geological Survey to make revisions. Potential cartographic changes may include extensions and deletions of headwater streams, shoreline and centerline realignments, flow path revisions relative to DEM's or DOQQ's, etc. Documentation to support revisions may include field reconnaissance, empirical data, modeling, etc.

This document is not intended to address the physical process of maintaining or editing of the data, but rather to define a process for how, when, who, and with what burden of proof the *decisions* get made for revision of the KY-NHD.

Goal

The goal of the Kentucky National Hydrographic Dataset (KY-NHD) Revision Oversight Committee is to ensure that the KY-NHD is the most comprehensive, accurate, and true reflection of the Waters of the Commonwealth and provide direction for future GIS hydrographic data needs.

Objectives

Objectives of the KY-NHD Revision Oversight Committee are to:

- Review technical information, as it comes to light, regarding its hydrologic reality, i.e. how well does the data reflect the real hydrologic world

- Make recommendations to the physical custodian of the data regarding revisions
- Field and arbitrate disputes regarding interpretations of the existing KY-NHD data
- Field and arbitrate disputes regarding interpretations of new data on the condition and extent of the hydrologic features
- Explore and promote the use of the KY-NHD as the official repository and integrator for all hydrologic datasets and representations, including surface water, groundwater, and karst systems

Revision Oversight Committee Composition

The voting members of the Revision Oversight Committee should be made up of individuals with advanced degrees and experience in some related field of hydrogeologic studies. This might include hydrology, hydrogeology, geomorphology, and meteorology. Technical support in the form of geographic information services (GIS) will be provided as non-voting members. The make-up shall include representation from the following:

- Two individuals from the US Geological Survey, Water Resources Discipline
 - Two individual from the Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet
 - Two individual from the Kentucky Geological Survey
 - Two individuals from any Kentucky university or the Water Resources Research Institute
 - Two at-large individuals, representing natural resources, industry, or citizen perspectives
- For a total of ten individuals on the committee.

Technical support for mapping and GIS services shall include one individual from each of the following. The Committee may choose to seek additional technical advice outside of this group, at their discretion.

- US Geological Survey, Geography Discipline
- Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet, Office of Information Services
- Office of Geographic Information (OGI)

Legal counsel shall be provided by the Governors Office for Technology.

Procedures and Responsibilities

- Meet at least twice per year to consider proposed changes, review supporting data that are provided, and to consider other issues related to the KY-NHD
- Develop petition to change standards for consideration by the Committee and standards by which to review petition
- Review data submitted to USGS for changes to KY-NHD
- Define and publish a form to be used for the submission of suggestions, recommendations, and challenges
- Provide for the collection of information by a self service website